**WCC Missions Prayer Update — September 2023**

**ACTS, Haiti – Clark Shepherd**
**Prayers:**

* Pray for ACTS as we need to build a new home for Samson and a new church building. Samson and his family had gang members looking for him, and he had to escape area. We are beginning anew in a different area in Haiti.
* Pray for our fall Christian concerts because these help us fund much of our efforts locally and nationally.
* Pray for Mary Kay and I as we continue our mission work in Kosciusko County, Haiti and Colombia. We cherish your encouragement and prayers.

**Praises:**

* Praise that God protected our teams that had mission trips to Colombia and to Haiti in July and August.

**Elam Ministries, Iran (and beyond) – Dan & Carmen Hale**
**Prayers:**

* Carmen has had knee pain for the last year.  We are planning for her to have knee replacement surgery in mid-August.  Please pray that this will solve her pain issue, for the surgery to go smoothly with no complications and for healing.
* For all the churches in the Iran region to grow as mission-centers.  Please pray that believers will boldly share Jesus with neighbors, family and friends.
* For disciple-makers to be mobilized throughout the Persian-speaking world, that thousands will grow to be disciple-makers who will guide those reached to be disciple-makers so the church will grow in number and maturity.

**Praises:**

* Praise God for Iranian believers to share the love of Christ so tangibly with their Turkish neighbors during this time of need from the earthquakes.

**Encompass World Partners, France – Rob and Nichole Plaster**

 **Prayers:**

* Pray for our monthly meetings that many of the families that have been touched by our witness would come.
* Pray as the school year starts and we start back our involvement in our city through various means (Neighborhood Council, Veterans Association, Carpentry Club).
* Pray that our ministry would remain fully funded. We have been informed that a church is no longer able to continue, and we have an increase in costs to need $1,250 a month.
* Pray for our Daughter Cami who starts back school and jumping ponies.
* Pray for the future of the Kids Club that we started with Ashley and her boys and may others join.

**Praises:**

* Praise God we were able to purchase our home this summer!

**Ethnos360/New Tribes Mission PNG, Papua New Guinea – Summer Zimmer**

**Prayers:**

* Pray the Lord would provide opportunities to connect with the US churches who have a desire to grow in their engagement with their missionaries here.
* Pray that I will be available and ready to offer a ladies’ debriefing retreat when the time is right for a group of ladies here. That I would be sensitive to the Lord’s timing instead of relying on my own.
* Pray that I would be sensitive to the Lord’s prompting when others here need encouragement and aware of ways I can mobilize others to encourage.

**Praises:**

* Praise the Lord for His Word in my heart language and the opportunity to study it with 10 other ladies of varying ages and nationalities.  It’s such a blessing to learn from one another.
* Lea, a young lady from Germany, has come to use her skills in the communications department.  At first, I was unsure of what we would have her do, and now, we have many projects for her to work on that are specific to her skillset. Thank the Lord for gifting each of us uniquely.
* Praise the Lord for His financial provision through many of you.

 **Ethnos360 Training — Dan and Madison Murphy**

**Prayers:**

* **Praise God that we completed our Bible training!** It has been a long two years, filled with early mornings, late nights, and a lot of coffee. We began this journey by taking a leap of faith when we enrolled at EBI, knowing that this was the first step in becoming career missionaries. Little did we know that God would make it so clear to us over the past two years that career missions IS what He wants us to pursue. We have grown in spiritual knowledge, wisdom, and discernment in more ways than we can imagine.
* **Please pray for safe travels and sweet time with family and friends** before we move. We have a packed July schedule. We will be in 5 states in the next four weeks before we hit the ground running at ETR in August.
* **Given that we are in a huge transition, we ask for these specific prayers over the next few months:** **pray that our Warsaw home is a blessing to our renter; pray that we seek joy, contentment, and trust in God on a daily basis; pray that we can find a local church; and pray that we can develop solid friendships with our ETR peers, staff, and teachers.**

**Fellowship Missions, Warsaw – Eric & Tammy Lane**

**Prayers:**

* Pray that the food truck team and the culinary training program within it fall into place. Help us to think outside the box and use this blessing to glorify him.
* For residents who have moved out that they would stay strong, stay the course and be successful economically and spiritually.
* For a small group of residents struggling with some major health issues.

**Praises:**

* We are currently experiencing a pleasant and calm atmosphere in the shelter.
* For the awesome and inspiring week at the City Gate National Conference.
* God continues to prove Himself faithful to those who love Him.

**Hands of Hope, International, Guatemala—Sally Dewald**
**Prayers:**

* Please pray for my granddaughter, Emma, who will be joining me in Guatemala. She will be the 5th generation in my family serving with Guatemala. Pray for her schooling and her faith.
* Please pray for the team, that includes those from the states and those in country. We have 10-11 participants from the states at this time.

**Praises:**

* Praise for the pharmacy that we are able to put together with medications and supplies!

**Heartline, Kosciusko County – Abigail Rodriguez**

**Prayers:**

* Prayers for our current clients to have smooth deliveries and healthy babies.
* Prayer for our current staff positions that need filled. That God will provide the right people at the right time.
* Prayers for increased opportunities to reach the abortion-vulnerable and abortion-minded clients.

**Praises:**

* The number of parents participating in Earn While You Learn parenting and prenatal classes has increased.
* Praise God for his provision in providing volunteers for our BABE store. We are so grateful for them and their efforts to help whenever and wherever they are needed.
* Also, for the opportunity we have had to train and educate our staff in reaching the Spanish speaking community and improve our services to be more accessible to them.

**Humanity & Hope, Honduras – Riley & Naz Fuller**, **Pastor Roger and Kareen Reyes**

**Prayers:**

* Pray for rain during this season, that there are no floods this year.

**Praises:**

* Praise Kareen has completed her university degree in psychology and will have a graduation ceremony in November.
* Praise that the Bible studies with the women re continuing to go well and that the men are continuing to come out of regular times of prayer and futbol with Roger.
* Praise 5 more families have received the keys to their home in La Cuchilla! Families are now able to live in a safe home.
* Praise the men’s meeting where 2 people accepted the Lord this week!

**iHouse - Jacob and Lauren Hiatt**

**Prayers:**

* Housing for N. and his family. He is Afghan and needs to find a new house to rent immediately.
* Several of our Afghan friends have recently lost their jobs. Please pray for wisdom in helping them find new jobs, and people willing to give them opportunities.
* One of our Haitian ladies is pregnant, and it is a high-risk pregnancy because the baby has lesions on his lungs.
* Two Haitian families need housing. They are living in a shelter right now.

**Praises:**

* Jacob and Lauren got to attend a wonderful conference about how to better understand Muslims and share God's love with them.

**Kutoa Project, Kenya – Jason & Shae Brown**
**Prayers:**

* Safety for our team as violent protests are returning to Kenya due to government stress.
* We can find an intern that will impact those we serve and enhance our team over the next 6 to 12 months.
* We are beginning a new program for 18-25-year-olds this season and want to rest in his grace and guidance on making it happen.

**Praises:**

* Our healing group programs bring moments of grace, wisdom and healing to those participating.
* We continue to see our team grow and flourish as leaders through the mission each week.

**LeaderSource Teams in the Nations – Jim Brenneman**
**Prayers for Jim:**

* + Jim helps to write Bible-training materials for frontline leaders in the nations. Our Theology Project is now in use in China by hundreds of leaders and it is also in use throughout Africa and in connection with the 99 Names of Allah project for Muslims. Pray for Jim’s work of writing.
	+ He still builds leaders around the world via the Web, including frequent interactions to answer questions about the Bible, Christian doctrines and ethics. He is even teaching Hebrew.
	+ Jim is also mentoring young emerging leaders, encouraging them to pursue vital connection to God in fellowship and prayer. He also helps them with learning how to read the Bible in a way that is enriching and with solid understanding of an overview of the great themes found throughout the whole Bible. He also does simple things like teaching them Hebrew and how to make proper use of study helps like the Strong’s Concordance.
	+ Jim is also helping to lead a daily Bible Reading Plan with believers in China. The second half of the year will progress through the Old Testament from Eden to the Exile – with relevant portions of the New Testament cross-referenced. Pray for the people involved in this daily Bible reading.
	+ Mentoring ministry connects him with young men in America, as Jim shares a spare bedroom in his home with college students. Connection with the previous house-guest continues (David – Costa Rica), and now with Cesar (Venezuela). Pray for both of these young men.

**For LeaderSource:**

* + Pray for our increasing reach into the Muslim world – including Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, launching from Egypt.
	+ Pray for the team in Egypt as they work with orthodox and evangelicals, as well as Muslim Background Believers. Our Egypt team is leads the Names of Allah project.
	+ Our staff in China are training tens of thousands of leaders.
* Praise God for the thriving work, as it flourishes with large wide-reaching Church networks and movements, in spite of increasing repression.
* Pray for Sports & Outdoor Ministry, “covert ops”, which use American Football, Frisbee and hiking to build emerging leaders and to encourage veteran leaders.
* Pray about risks of the internet chat apps and Zoom interference.
* The Transformational Theology Project is now in progress – moving 1000s of leaders and their people in the direction of knowing the fundamental truths of the faith. Pray that they will walk in God’s purpose and avoid distracting false doctrines.
* **India – Pray that God’s people will have wisdom toward unbelievers.**
* Many trainings of Theological Seminaries about how to make theology transforming to the seminary students and those they will be leading after graduation.
* New trainings by India Team with youth and families – and with Pastors’ groups for mutual encouragement and connections.
* Jim’s colleagues, Bal and Snigdha Rani have been developing a long-term training for emerging young leaders in association with a local church.
* Many cities where our staff are located have been experiencing violence against churches. Pray for our protection and for continued influence in the midst of suffering.
* **Africa**
* Nigeria – still one of the most dangerous places to be a Christian. Pray for the protection of our team, as they continue to build and train leaders for the Church.
* In all of our nations of ministry, we desire that God will help us to build servant leaders in the face of many churches who follow “superstar celebrity leaders.”
* Hundreds of leaders are embracing our “Transformational Theology” materials and right now they are learning from What God is Like.

 **Least-reached/Maleu Church, Papua New Guinea – Todd & Karen Gerst**

**Prayers:**

* Pray for the Maleu church to stand strong and be a light to those who have never heard and for the Elders and Deacons as they lead the Church.
* Pray for the other Maleu Villages that someone would go and tell them about God’s saving Grace.
* Pray for Kewaka (Maleu Elder) and family as they travel and help equip other nationals in PNG.

**Praise:**

* Praise the Lord for how He continues to work mightily in and through the Gie/Aimola church.
* Praise the Lord that it has grown very large as new people have heard and understood the gospel! Please pray for the leaders and their families as they minister there in the midst of all of the growing pains.
* Praise the Lord for all the families willing to leave their homes to continue spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ!

**Least-reached/Pei Tribe, Papua New Guinea – Chris & Evie Jones**

The Joneses (along with their teammates) serve amongst the Pei people group of Papua New Guinea. Their goal is to plant a thriving church eventually led by the Pei people.

**Prayers:**

* Please continue to pray for the health of our baby church. We are discipling and teaching through the life of Christ. Up next is Job, then probably some Baptism courses! We're also going to dive into communion and praise/worship stuff. We want to approach this with a gentle and wise touch!

**Praise:**

* Recently we got a work team in here to fix our houses. We are very thankful for no rat presence in the home as a result of their hard work.
* Our younger believers were VERY excited to meet up with others from Yahweh's Clan in a different tribe, called Pukapuki. For a youth conference led by nationals. We're thankful for the excitement and praying we can keep up with the new drive they have.

 **Life Impact Ministries, Costa Rica – Ben & Krista Balke**

**Pray:**

* We are back in the States this month! Pray that we would be able to reconnect with our current partners and make new connections too.
* For our ministry guests...our calendar is full through Feb 2024! Pray that they will receive rest and "new strength" (Is. 40:31), that they will hear from the Lord during their time at the Oasis
* For our family as we launch our oldest into life in the States and be returning mid-school year for the other two.
* For all our children. That "He who began a good work in [them] will carry it on to completion" (Phil 1:6)

**Praise:**

* We have a full calendar of ministry guests! (Again, also a prayer request!)
* For the Lord's provision
* The church plant that we are a part of is growing!

 **Media 7, Albania and Kosovo – Leda Shelburne**
**Prayers:**

* Pray for healing for Andy and wisdom for the doctors who will examine him in Italy. Please pray for the best treatment for him.
* Pray for protection for our staff on different countries/locations and for our equipment.
* Pray for 4 women conferences we are having in Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia in the beginning of September.
* Pray for the new series of programs we are working on. Please pray that many children will know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

**Praises:**

* Praise God, for new partnerships and new open doors to develop media ministries in other
countries.
* Praise God, for new listeners who made a decision for Christ this month.
* Praise God for new partnerships in 2023 that are helping our ministry to grow significantly
our online evangelism.
* Praise God for open doors to continue to minister in public schools all over the country.

**Pastor W S, Asia**

**Prayers:**

* For new refugee believers from a Muslim background. They face persecution and rejection from their families.
* For more relief items to ease the difficulties of the people in the refugee camps.
* For safety, wisdom, and boldness in our outreaches into Muslim madrassas and several local unreached people groups.

**Scripture Union, Uganda – Beth Baleke & Dickens Ssenyonjo**

**From Beth Baleke*:***
**Prayers:**

* Please pray for effective ToT/ Training of Trainers in the Values Education Class (VEC) for 35 Refugee Leaders, the Sunday School teachers and SU volunteers scheduled 1st-2nd Sept in Lower Rhino camp and other leaders of SU Uganda from 1st-2nd September in Kampala.
* Please pray against false teaching so prevalent in Uganda. Ask God to help us with the Training of 60 South Sudanese Refugee leaders by African Center for Apologetics Research (ACFAR) happening 5th-7th Sept in Koboko. This will also be in partnership with KIDS Uganda,who will host the training.
* Please pray for the Children and Youth camps happening right now in the different regions of Uganda.
* Please pray that the Printing and publishing of the Swahili-Self Control Module for Tanzania will happen.

**Praises:**

* Progress on the KOBOKO project! There is ongoing Flooring works and plastering on the building.
* Seeing the powerful impact of the Bible Distribution and Bible Reading Promotion in the Schools in Ethiopia, South Sudan, the South Sudanese Refugee camps, Uganda and Tanzania.

**From Dickens Ssenyonjo:
Prayers:**

* Please pray for the upcoming SU Uganda Values’ Orientation training to Children’s Church instructors and various Pastors and Church leaders scheduled to run from 1st to 3rd September 2023.
* Pray for the final editing and production of Bible reading Devotionals for 2024 to be successful.
* We have a number of Regional Gospel Missions in various schools as a new school term starts later in the month. Please pray for positive response and transformation among all young people reached through this gospel campaign.
* Pray for God’s provision of new Vehicles to facilitate easier mobility of Scripture Union Uganda Ministry operations across the Country. Most of our vehicles have outrun their shelf life and keep breaking down every now and then, hence costing us so much in maintenance bills.
* The 3rd and last school term of the year starts on 18th September, please pray for safety and good health of all scholars especially for those who have to sit National Exams. Pray for emotional stability and confidence to prepare well for their examinations.

**Praises:**

* Thank God for the successful Scripture Union Organized 2nd term School Holiday students’ Camps and Conferences that were held between the 25th and 31st of August 2023.
* Thank God for the safety and good health of Children and young people during their 2nd term that has ended well with no major frightening incidences as had been the case previously. We used to have a number of fire outbreaks in many Boarding schools but this has been very limited in the just ended school term.
* Thank God for His continuous provision to Scripture Union Uganda amidst all odds given the difficult economic challenges.

**2nd Mile Missions, Dominican Republic – Mason McIntyre, Lisa Harstine, Sue Vercauteren, Eduardo Castillo (County Director) and Founders: Rod and Nancy Wildman**

**Prayers:**

* For continued healing in Rod who was diagnosed with Guillain-Barre Syndrome almost a year ago. He continues to improve and is still undergoing treatment, so please continue to pray!
* School is back in session. Please pray for the teachers, faculty and staff as they start this new school year. Pray for wisdom, compassion, and the Lord’s guidance as they dive into making a difference in the lives of the children in their classrooms. Pray that the students are eager to learn and are open to hearing and receiving the Lord as they learn about Him throughout the year.
* For Mason and Lisa’s trip to the DR. September 26th - 30th, they will be in the schools taking pictures of each student and gathering accurate enrollment information that is critical to the sponsorship program. Please pray for safety as Mason, Lisa and her husband, Joel, travel down and back. Pray they are able to accomplish their goals for this trip. Once they return, Lisa’s workload is pretty heavy with updating student information, sponsorship changes, and connecting new students to sponsors. Please be in prayer for her during this process.
* For Kirk and Orlina Burnett. Orlina is our Social Worker in the DR and is married to Kirk who used to work for 2nd Mile Missions and continues to volunteer whenever needed. Many of you know Kirk, as he used to attend WCC. Kirk and Orlina will be traveling to Texas in early September in preparation for having their second child. Orlina is due in early October. Please pray for safe travels, smooth delivery and a healthy baby!

**Praises:**

* Praise the Lord for the healing in Nancy’s leg. She is still undergoing therapy but is able to walk without crutches now. Please continue to pray for a full recovery.
* Praise the Lord for His goodness and provision with our August fundraisers! The “Play with a Purpose” Golf Outing on August 17th went very well despite the storm during lunch/registration and then again at the very end. Most teams were able to complete at least 16 or 17 holes before the storm hit. We were blessed by all those who participated, sponsored a hole or donated a prize to help make this event successful! We were doubly blessed by the generosity of many with our “Day of Giving” Campaign on August 25th! At this point in time $23,860 has been donated and thanks to an amazing corporate sponsor, these donations are being matched dollar for dollar! God is so good and we feel so blessed! All Glory to God!
* Praise God for all He does and continues to do for the least of these!

**World Compassion Network, Honduras/ Worldwide – Josh Grill (Sandy Hatcher)**

**Prayers:**

* Provision of the truck replacement over the next year.
* General Fund Finances for WCN, for God to direct our disaster relief responses and for the suffering in Mississippi.
* For a possible pickleball fundraiser in September, with the proceeds going to area churches and nonprofits to fight poverty.

**Praises:**

* The great response from our race sponsors and turn out this year AND that it stopped raining when the race started and didn’t really start raining again until most to the participants were done
* For opportunities we have had to share projects withour partnering churches

**Here at WCC**

**Prayer:**

* Please pray that God prepares a big team for our next Wayumi Trip — Oct 27-29! Pray for open hearts and minds for all who attend.
* Pray for our current missionary candidates who are in our “equipping pipeline” as they study and gain experience — the Vaughns, the Schneidewents, and the Murphys.
* Pray that each member of our church, from Sonlight to our senior citizens, understands their role in God’s Story.

**Praise:**

* Praise God for WCC’s faithful Missions Pit Crews! They are a vital bridge between our partners and the love and care our church can afford.
* Praise God that He is stirring in the hearts of two couples from our church body to ‘go’ — that God will raise up the next person, couple or family for WCC to send as church planters to the unreached.